

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

AGR-05 TRSE-00 IGA-01 /106 W  
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R 241548Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8570

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02788

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, UK

SUBJECT: MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COM-  
MONWEALTH; MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS  
CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS AT COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT,  
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF FULL-MEMBER NATIONS OF BRITISH  
COMMONWEALTH WILL HOLD THEIR BIENNIAL MEETING IN JAMAICA  
FROM APRIL 29 TO MAY 6. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ARE ANTI-  
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CIPATING BETTER THAN AVERAGE INTEREST IN THIS MEETING

FROM AMONG THE 33 FULL-MEMBER COUNTRIES. SAME OFFICIALS AT SECRETARIAT HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT AGENDA ITEMS WILL AS USUAL BE BROAD IN SCOPE AND DISCUSSION WILL BE INFORMAL, I.E. WITHOUT READING OF PREPARED SPEECHES. FIRST DRAFT OF AGENDA IS NOW BEING READIED AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HIS APPROVAL IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON AGENDA AND WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF PRODUCER-CONSUMER RELATIONS AND TERMS OF TRADE, ENERGY AND WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING WILL FOLLOW MARCH 4-12 MEETING IN LONDON OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD PRODUCTION WHICH WAS SUGGESTED BY OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JUDITH HART AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER. SHE HOPES MARCH MEETING WILL BE SPENT IN INFORMAL SEMINARS WITH EMPHASIS ON AIDING POOREST SECTORS OF THE POOREST LDCS THROUGH ASSISTANCE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE. THERE IS ALSO LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ACP RELATIONS WITH EEC AND EEC AID POLICY TOWARD NON-ACP LDCS, SUCH AS INDIA. HART IS URGING THE EEC DIVIDE ITS AID MORE EQUITABLY BETWEEN THESE TWO GROUPS. ACP COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO ONE OFFICIAL AT COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, ARE OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF UK REMAINING IN EC, AS THEY CONVINCED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO THEM.

3. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS FOR JAMAICA MEETING MENTIONED BY SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WERE: A) TOUR D'HORIZON OF WORLD POLITICAL SCENE, INCLUDING GREAT POWER RELATIONS AND BALANCE OF POWER; B) SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND APARTHEID; C) ELECTION OF GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL AS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL TO ASSUME OFFICE IN JULY.

4. SINCE WITHDRAWAL OF PAKISTAN FROM COMMONWEALTH WILL ELIMINATE INDIAN-PAKISTANI CONFRONTATION, ONLY COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS WITH INTRA-MURAL PROBLEMS ARE TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA ON ONE HAND AND UGANDA ON THE OTHER.  
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5. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE AT JAMAICA MEETING EXPECTED TO BE MORE CONGENIAL THAN SOME OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS BECAUSE OF: A) RECENT ACP AGREEMENT WITH EC; B) IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN UK AND BLACK AFRICAN STATES SINCE START OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CONSULTATIONS ON RHODESIA; C) BELIEF OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAT BRITISH LABOR PARTY IS MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THIRD WORLD THAN CONSERVATIVES. END COM-

MENT.

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## Message Attributes

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